DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

Numbers and campus locations of sections are listed below in the left margin. Most courses in the 100 and 200 series meet in several sections and at different times; see schedule of classes for more information. Times for 300 & 400 level courses are listed in the left margin.

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COURSES IN FRENCH – FALL 2018

Students are placed in French courses according to performance on the placement test taken on entering the university as first-year or transfer students.

101 CAC
   Elementary French – Gives a thorough grounding in all aspects of the French language through use of the most successful of the modern methods, for students with no previous knowledge of French. Additional work in language lab. Does not carry degree credit for students with two or more years of high school French. [Not open to seniors.]

102 CAC
   Elementary French – Continuation of 420:101.

103 M4 CAC
   Elementary French Laboratory – [Co-requisite: 420:101] – Instructor guided laboratory practicum based on intensive use of media and designed for the improvement of aural/oral skills. Practice will involve use of multimedia applications, authentic material, individual and group work, and recordings of student speech for evaluation of pronunciation and fluency. This additional one credit course is not required; however, students who want to perform better in their co-requisite French 101 course and who want to progress quickly in the language are encouraged to register. [Students must be currently registered in a section of 420:101 in order to take this course.]

121 CAC, EVE
   French Fundamentals – Review and practice of French for students with some previous study of French who are not yet prepared for French 131. Emphasis on the development of functional communication in French in the four skill areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additional work in language lab.

131 CAC, EVE
   Intermediate French – Develops fluency in spoken and written French through the study of grammar, vocabulary, conversation and composition skills. Additional work in language lab. [For students who have a strong placement test score or who have completed 420:102, 420:121 or 420:128.]

132 CAC, EVE
   Intermediate French – Continuation of French 131. [This course fulfills Core Requirement AHq]

133 W4 CAC
   Intermediate French Laboratory – [Co-requisite: 420:131] – Instructor guided laboratory practicum based on intensive use of media and designed for the improvement of aural/oral skills. Practice will involve use of multimedia applications, authentic material, individual and group work, and recordings of student speech for evaluation of pronunciation and fluency. This additional one credit course is not required; however, students who want to perform better in their co-requisite French 131 course and who want to progress quickly in the language are encouraged to register. [Students must be currently registered in a section of 420:131 in order to take this course.]
French Theater Workshop (mini course) – In this theater workshop, we will focus on language acquisition and practice through improvisation and sense memory activities. We will also use acting methods, like learning how to use action verbs as an invisible structure for improvisation and for any type of texts: letters, articles, theory, poetry, novels, theatrical dialogs, etc. This will be a great opportunity to improve your listening and pronunciation skills. [This is a 7-week mini course beginning 10/29/18 through 12/10/18. Prerequisite: 420:121 or equivalent placement.]

** Students must complete 420:132 or 420:137 before taking any 200-level course. **

Francophone Culture and Language for Heritage Speakers (Online course) – This course is an opportunity for heritage speakers who have had prior exposure to French in a non-academic context to increase their linguistic and cultural proficiencies in order to better understand their cultural heritage, and to embrace their native language. [Prerequisite: 131 placement level and permission of department.]

Intensive Advanced Grammar – Scandals and Mysteries in France – This course is an in-depth exploration of the language through a selection of striking cases that have marked France’s cultural heritage. The course aims to prepare students for literature and culture courses. Authentic and significant historical, social and cultural material such as full-length movies, visual art samples, audio files, literary and journalistic excerpts, serves as the starting point for intensive grammar reviews, development of vocabulary, and discussions on critical contemporary issues. [Prerequisite: placement test or 420:132 or 420:137] [This course fulfills Core Requirement AHq]

Composition and Stylistics – ‘See What I Mean?’: Reading Into French Popular Culture – Advertisements, slogans, songs, cartoons and news articles are some of the messages that shape our representation of the world. But what exactly are these messages saying? What do they really mean, and how do they make sense? This course is designed for students who are interested in improving their linguistic skills while exploring some of the many “faces” of language. A selection of short visual and textual documents, two best-selling contemporary novels and three box-office movies will serve as a basis for reading and writing practice as well as grammar reviews. [Prerequisite: 420:213] [This course fulfills Core Requirements AHp, AHq, WCD]

Aspects of French Literature – An introduction to French literature through the reading and discussion (oral and written) of representative works from the late 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. This course provides an overview of literary forms and movements while focusing on the development of active reading comprehension and essay-writing skills in French. Its first aim, however, is to allow students to experience personal contact with a few masterpieces. Readings include narrative works by Rousseau, Flaubert, Maupassant, Camus, and Yourcenar; a play by Beckett; essays by Staël and Sartre; and poems by Hugo, Lamartine, Desbordes-Valmore, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Apollinaire, Breton, Desnos, Ponge, and Césaire. [Prerequisite: placement test or 420:132 or 420:137] [This course fulfills Core Requirements AHo, AHp, WCD]

Aspects of French Literature – (Continuing 215) An introduction to French literature from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment, via the Renaissance and the Classical age. Readings include the medieval tale La Châtelaine de Vergy as well as fiction by Rabelais and Voltaire; excerpts from Montaigne’s Essais and the 18th century Encyclopédie; plays by Corneille and Molière; and poems by Labé, Ronsard, and La Fontaine. Building on the experience of 215, the main goal of the course is to allow students to understand and enjoy major works from an earlier era, while sharpening reading, comprehension, and essay-writing skills. [Prerequisite: placement test or 420:132 or 420:137] [This course fulfills Core Requirements AHo, AHp, WCD]

Approaches to French Literature (Honors) – An intensive introduction to the history of French literature from the last quarter of the 18th century to the present. Through the study of a few complete texts and detailed comparative readings of short excerpts (by Rousseau, Chateaubriand, Staël, Hugo, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Flaubert, Maupassant, Proust, Apollinaire, Breton, Césaire, Camus, Sartre, Ponge, Beckett, Perec, Yourcenar, and others), a variety of genres and literary movements will be presented, along with the basic tools of critical analysis. This alternative to Aspects of French Literature (215) is oriented toward students with a solid preparation in French and a strong interest in literature. Significant prior experience with French literary texts, however, is not necessary. [Honors equivalent to French 215. Prerequisite: placement test or 420:132 or 420:137. Special permission required.] [This course fulfills Core Requirements AHo, AHp, WCD]

** Please note you cannot take 215 AND 217; nor can you take 216 AND 218. **
Approaches to French Literature (Honors) – Approaches to French Literature (Honors) – Introduction to French Literature through close readings of texts from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment. We will pay special attention to the nature of literary works (genre, style, structure, narrative voice) and to the goals and methods of literary analysis. Readings include the medieval tale of La Châtelaine de Vergy; prose and poetry from major Renaissance authors (Labé, Montaigne, Ronsard); two plays (Corneille’s Le Cid, Molière’s Tartuffe), fables (La Fontaine’s Fables) and tales (Perrault’s Contes) from the Classical Age; a philosophical tale (Voltaire’s L’ingénû); and excerpts from the Encyclopédie. [Honors equivalent to French 216. Prerequisite: placement test or 420:132 or 420:137. Special permission required.] [This course fulfills Core Requirements AHo, AHp, WCd]

French Cultural Experience – French and Francophone Culture in the French Living and Learning Community (course to take place in Frelinghuysen Hall) – Special topics in French and Francophone cultures selected to meet the interests and needs of the students. The course also includes field trips to New Brunswick, Princeton, and New York City, depending on the calendar of shows and exhibitions of various cultural institutions. [Required of the residents of the Leupp French House. May not be used in satisfaction of major requirements; may be repeated for credit, and used to satisfy minor requirements. Special permission required.]

** French 215 (or 217) and 216 (or 218) are prerequisites to all 300 and 400 level courses. French 213 and 214 are recommended but not required. Students who place above the 200-level or who wish to request exceptions should consult the Undergraduate Director.**

French Civilization from the Middle Ages to the Revolution – Y a-t-il une «civilisation française»? Culture et nation en France du Moyen Âge à la Révolution – Ce cours étudiera la naissance et le développement de l’idée même de «culture» ou «civilisation» française. Tout en explorant le contenu (politique, social, religieux, linguistique, artistique…) de la notion de culture (ou équivalent) aux différentes époques concernées (Moyen Âge, Renaissance, Grand Siècle, Siècle des Lumières), nous nous demanderons dans quelle mesure et à partir de quel moment cette culture peut sans anachronisme être appelée «française»; dans quelle mesure elle-même se définit de cette manière; et quel est alors le sens de cette appellation. Nous nous intéresserons donc à la façon dont le concept de culture, dans l’histoire d’un pays particulier (la France), s’est associé avec le concept de nation pour former celui d’une «culture nationale» distincte, composante fondamentale de l’identité d’un peuple. Cette idée n’a rien d’évident, a elle-même une histoire, et tient à certains égards du mythe; mais elle a joué et joue encore un rôle majeur dans la façon dont les Français se définissent eux-mêmes, et aussi dans la façon dont le reste du monde envisage la «culture française». Le processus que nous analyserons aboutit en effet non seulement à la notion d’une culture proprement française, mais à l’idée que la France est un pays où la culture en tant que telle revêt une importance exceptionnelle, plus grande qu’ailleurs. Nous étudierons l’histoire de cette idée jusqu’à la Révolution (qui lui donnera un nouveau rayonnement), en nous demandant comment elle est née, dans quelle mesure elle s’est imposée, à quoi elle a servi, et aussi comment – au nom de quelles autres idées – elle a pu être contestée.

The French Novel – This course will focus on the French novel of the Old Regime, starting in the seventeenth century with La princesse de Montpensier (1662) and La Princesse de Clèves (1678), and moving on to the eighteenth century with Graffigny’s Lettres d’une péruvienne (1747), Marivaux’s Le Paysan purvenu (1734-5) and Ceci n’est pas un conte (1772) by Diderot. We will familiarize ourselves with the history of the genre, focusing our attention on the complex status of fiction and the charges of illegitimacy and immorality that were leveled against it. The texts we will read are five stories that define the relationship of fiction to reality in very different ways. Through close readings and discussions of novelistic themes and forms, we will seek to explain how the novel became a dominant literary form.

*It is strongly recommended that students take 6 credits at the 300-level before taking 400-level courses.

Advanced Stylistics and Composition – Designed as a follow-up to French 213 and 214, this new workshop aims to help French majors and minors succeed in their upper-level courses and seminars. We will focus on the writing process and its (often overlooked) components: planning, revising, and editing. Prompts drawn from contemporary French and Francophone cultures will be used to study and practice the following tasks: describing, summarizing, reporting, narrating, analyzing, arguing, corresponding, and translating. As writing requires strategy, but also inspiration, students will be encouraged to turn their own interests and experiences into meaningful content. [Prerequisite: One 300-level French course.]
Senior Seminar in French Literature – Children, Youth, and Society – Children and young people in the French-speaking world, like their counterparts around the globe, interact in various ways with their families, communities, and environment. This seminar will center on the ways in which youths living in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean are represented in literature and popular culture. Subjects as well as producers of visual art, music, fiction, and film, they are shaped, in part, by public policy, education, and new technologies, for example, their lives sometimes impacted by war and dictatorship. We will pay particular attention to issues of language, migration, and how identities are informed by race, class, gender, and ability. Readings will range from excerpts from Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s *Emile* to Gisèle Pineau’s novel *Un papillon dans la cité*. Films include Djibril Diop Mambety’s *La Petite vendeuse de soleil*, François Truffaut’s *L’Argent de poche*, and Raoul Peck’s *L’Homme sur les quais*.

COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH – FALL 2018

***No prerequisite needed in French!***

105
TTh6
Troiano
CAC

French for Reading Knowledge – An intensive introduction to the French language, designed to allow students to acquire a reading knowledge of the language as quickly as possible. The course will be conducted in English; no prior knowledge of French required. The textbook will be supplemented with additional readings chosen based on the interests of the class. [Taught in English and fulfills Core Requirement AHq]

160
TTh6
Eisenzweig
CAC

Short Stories of France – This course examines a handful of beautiful short stories, in English translation, by some of the most important French writers of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Its objective is to give students with no particular knowledge of French an overall view of an important French literary genre and to develop critical thinking. Readings will include texts by Voltaire, Mérimée, Barbery d’Aurevilly, Maupassant, Camus and Michon. (Cross-listed with 195:135:02) [This course is taught in English and fulfills Core Requirements AHp.]

241
TF2
Flieger
CAC

Topics in French Literature: Surrealism – Few aesthetic movements have had the far-reaching impact of surrealism, dating from the early 20’s in France, but exerting an international influence that continues even today in cyberculture and music videos, the visual arts, and literature. The surrealists were the first to systematically attempt to draw on unconscious sources such as dream and eroticism to explore a revolutionary new concept of beauty (“La beauté sera convulsive ou ne sera pas”, André Breton). In this course, we shall study the origin and artistic/social preoccupations of the surrealist school, including surrealist experiments in film, poetry, theater, novel, and painting.  (Cross-listed with 195:251:01) [This course is taught in English and fulfills Core Requirements AHp, WCD]

242
TTh5
Piroux

Major French Writers in Translation - Major French Plagiarists: Literature, between Originality and Word Robbery - Can words be owned? Since the invention of copyright, modern written cultures have treated acts of plagiarism as distasteful, immoral, and illegal. Nowadays, authors, journalists, and students who commit acts of plagiarism pay a very high price when they are exposed, and they often struggle to rebuild their reputation after facing public shame. There was a time, though, when the borrowing of the words of others was neither shameful nor criminalized. Prior to the end of the eighteenth-century, the line between plagiarism and creative originality was often blurred, and authors felt free to recycle the verbal production of others into their own work. In fact, by today’s standards many major French authors were also major plagiarists. In this course, we will study the history of plagiarism from the sixteenth-century to the present time by focusing on several illustrious French plagiarists, including Montaigne, Molière, Diderot and Dumas. Studying these cases of word robbery in their historical contexts will help us make sense of our contemporary debates about originality, author’s rights and the public domain in all matters of artistic creation. (Cross-listed with 195:251:02) [This course is taught in English and fulfills Core Requirements AHp, WCD]